

**Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on  
Student Life**

**Held on Friday, November 1, 2002**

**Loyola Campus Ad 308 10:00am**

**PRESENT:** Dr. D. Boisvert, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Mr. R. Côté, Ms M. Drew, Ms A. Kerby, Mr. B. Hamideh, Dr. J. Jans, Ms O. Maibroda, Mr. A. Munro, Ms D. Ross, Dr. F. Shaver, Mr. A. Slater, Mr. S. Zuberi, Ms C. Boujaklian, Mr. J. Brisebois, Mr. W. Curran, Ms P. Greco, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms L. Toscano

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Dr. S.M. Graub, Mr. L. Lawton, Ms R. Perreault, Ms N. Ngoya, Mr. K. Pruden, Ms K. Hedrich

**ABSENT:** Ms K. Curtis, Ms G. Pagé, Mr. A. Sibai

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*A motion to approve the agenda was carried unanimously*

**2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR**

There were no remarks from the Chair.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF May 3, 2002**

It was noted that Mr. Curran was in attendance at October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*A motion to approve the minutes as amended was carried unanimously*

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Budget Summary 2001-2002**

Dr. Boisvert drew Council's attention to the distributed Student Services year-end statement 2001-2002 and briefly explained the budget. He noted that the Dean of Students' deficit is the result of the Student Services year-end surplus being charged as an expense for 2001-2002. These surplus funds are allocated for various Student Services initiatives (student projects, consolidation of Student Services, etc) for 2002-2003. Council asked that a similar statement be submitted by Recreation & Athletics for the December CCSL meeting.

#### **4.2 Composition of Rector's Cabinet**

Dr. Boisvert informed Council that the CCSL motion calling for the Dean of Students to sit on Rector's Cabinet was on the agenda at the last Rector's Cabinet meeting but has not yet been addressed.

#### **4.3 Moratorium on Middle East Issues & Ban on Info Tables in Mezzanine**

Dr. Boisvert confirmed that these two motions have been forwarded to the Board of Governors.

#### **4.5 Locks on P & Q Annexes**

Dr. Boisvert confirmed that the motion concerning the locks for the P & Q Annexes had been sent to Security and Vice-Rector, Services. As Mr. Brisebois was not present at October CCSL meeting, he now addressed the issue. He explained that the lock change was done for safety and security reasons. There have been numerous incidents of theft and damage to property in the annexes. As well, non-Concordia persons have been found sleeping in the annexes. As Security believed there were numerous unauthorized keys being circulated, it was decided to change the locks. The reason there was no advance notice was to ensure the safety of the buildings and its contents.

There was concern expressed by Mr. Zuberi and Mr. Slater with respect to the current security of the annexes. Although Mr. Brisebois understood the concerns, he explained Security is now in the process of putting in place a secure procedure for obtaining access to university buildings and rooms.

#### **4.6 Hall Building Escalators**

As Mr. Brisebois was not present at the October 4<sup>th</sup> CCSL meeting, he addressed the issue. He explained that in peak periods the escalators are stopped for safety reasons. He also said that people are "playing" with the emergency button which creates problems. Dr. Boisvert suggested that students wishing to put up posters on the wall along the escalators might push the emergency button. Mr. Zuberi suggested that guards be placed in strategic places to catch people in the act of pushing the button. Mr. Brisebois did not feel Security had enough manpower to efficiently support this. As well, he said a guard placed at the escalators would only deter people from pushing the button when security was present. It would not solve the on-going problem. A camera installed in key places may be an option. Both he and Ms Boujaklian reminded Council that it was important for the university community to take a pro-active approach with respect to safety on campus. Ms Boujaklian reiterated the importance of calling 2400 to report any problems. Mr. Zuberi asked if plaques could be placed on



campus advertising that number. Ms Boujaklian said that suggestion was being looked into.

## **5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

### **5.1 Centre for International Academic Cooperation**

Mr. Fred Francis, Deputy Director for the Centre, spoke briefly about the Centre and highlighted the many facets of the Exchange Program at Concordia. He explained that there has been an increase of approximately 300% of students studying abroad. This increase was due to:

- increased publicity and information days on campus in high traffic areas
- a clearer understanding by the students of the criteria
- close collaboration with the various Faculties
- bursaries made available by the government

Mr. Munro felt that in comparison with other universities, the exchange programs offered to students in the faculty of Arts & Science were inadequate. Mr. Francis agreed that in the past this has been problematic. However all the faculties are now in the process of establishing bi-lateral exchanges for their students and hopefully this will solve the problem. He noted that the March 2002 issue of Panorama (A voice for Concordia University's Faculty of Arts and Science) stated that a record number of Arts & Science students are participating in the exchange program.

### **5.2 IITS – Internet Service**

Mr. Craig Buchanan, Manager Academic Services, distributed information leaflets that described the internet services available to students. He then briefly gave an "overview" of the services. A lengthy discussion followed on the "pros and cons" of the various log-on options. Mr. Munro felt strongly that the current services were inadequate for the number of students who required access. He said that if the network is not sufficient or if IITS does not have the needed resources, CCSL should take a proactive approach in order to ensure that the necessary improvements can be made to the service. Dr. Boisvert felt that before CCSL should consider such an action, more information is needed. As Mr. Munro indicated he had research that may be of interest to IITS, Dr. Boisvert asked that he meet with Mr. Buchanan. Dr. Boisvert also asked that Mr. Buchanan relay the concerns expressed at CCSL to Mr. McAusland. Mr. Buchanan agreed to report back at the December CCSL meeting.

## **6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES**

A lengthy discussion ensued on the University's and Security's handling of the events of September 9<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Boisvert felt it was important not to underestimate the lessons learned by the university from this incident. Mr. Zuberi asked again why the university has not accepted at least some of the blame for the outcome on September 9<sup>th</sup>. He questioned why a speaker was allowed to speak at Concordia if safety for the community was an issue. Mr. Munro reiterated that the university must take responsibility for what happened. Mr. Côté felt it was important for this discussion to be a starting point for the future. It was not productive to dwell on looking back and placing blame. He said the issue was much broader in scope. For example, he felt CCSL should consider what role it could play in the following issues:

- who can or cannot speak on campus
- who decides the level of security
- who protects the freedom of expression for all the community (i.e. at what point do or can we deny someone the freedom of expression)

Dr. Boisvert concurred that these issues fall under the mandate of CCSL. He reminded Council that two years ago the approval of a proposed Policy on Demonstrations was blocked by the student representatives on CCSL.

Mr. Zuberi asked who is ultimately paying for the cost of security for September 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Brisebois indicated that Mr. Di Grappa asked that the final invoice detailing the expenses be sent to him. Mr. Brisebois added that Hillel was aware their organization would be responsible for the security expenses.

Mr. Slater asked for clarification concerning the calling of police to campus to evict Mr. Yves Engler. Mr. Brisebois replied there was a protocol in place for such an action and that the protocol was followed. Mr. Slater said accreditation laws prevent a student government executive from being removed from campus. Dr. Boisvert replied that he was not sure that the government accreditation agent's "take" on the incident was the same as the CSU's.

## **7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECREATION & ATHLETICS BOARD**

As there were no students present at the meeting, quorum was not met and the Board met for discussion purposes only.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**9. NEXT MEETING:** Friday, December 6, 2002 10:00am H 769

**10. TERMINATION OF MEETING:**

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Ms Maibroda, and seconded by Ms Ross.